

b2 receiving input from the user indicating that a microphone is to be activated; activating the microphone; and displaying an indication that the microphone is active near the progress meter.

3. (Amended) The method of claim 1 further comprising:
converting a user's speech input into an analog speech signal;
converting the analog speech signal into at least one digital speech value; and
transforming the at least one digital speech value into coordinates for at least one shape on the display positioned near the progress meter.

13. (Amended) The method of claim 1 wherein displaying a progress meter further comprises:

b3 dividing the speech input into frames;
decoding at least one of the frames of speech into a sub-word unit;
dividing a frame number of the last frame to be decoded by the total number of frames to produce a decode ratio; and
displaying the progress meter based on the decode ratio.

14. (Amended) The method of claim 13 wherein displaying the progress meter further comprises:

multiplying the decode ratio by a full meter width to determine a progress width; and

calculating the coordinates of a progress rectangle based on the progress width, a stored meter height and a base point on the display.

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15. (Amended) The method of claim 12 further comprising:
- dividing the speech input into frames;
 - decoding at least one of the frames of speech into a sub-word unit;
 - dividing a frame number of the last frame to be decoded by the total number of frames to produce a decode ratio; and
 - displaying the progress meter based on the decode ratio by changing the color of at least one background rectangle.
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17. (Amended) A computer program comprising:
- at least one insertion point marker capable of maintaining the coordinates of an insertion point on a display, the insertion point representing a location on the display where a user desires to provide input;
 - a speech recognition routine capable of decoding a speech signal; and
 - a meter generation routine capable of displaying a meter near the insertion point based on the insertion point marker, the meter being indicative of an amount of a speech signal that has been decoded by the speech recognition routine.

18. (Amended) The computer program of claim 17 wherein the meter generation routine further comprises:

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a microphone state variable having a value that is indicative of whether a microphone is active; and an active microphone display routine, capable of displaying an indication that the microphone is active near the insertion point.

19.(Amended) The computer program of claim 17 wherein the meter generation routine further comprises a transform routine capable of transforming a digital value into a set of coordinates for a shape on the display, the digital value being indicative of the magnitude of a portion of a speech signal.

20.(Amended) The computer program of claim 17 wherein the speech recognition routine is capable of decoding a speech signal into a set of sub-words
